

Neighborhood & Community Services Department

Tacoma Gang Reduction Project

Project Mission:

- The mission of the Tacoma Gang Reduction Project is to reduce and prevent gang violence through a combination of prevention, intervention, suppression and system change best practices.



Project Background

- City Council adopted as a priority, March 2010
- National Gang Center Technical Assistance, May 2010
- Conducted city-wide gang assessment, 2011
- Assessment published, April 2012
- Full Implementation, January 2013

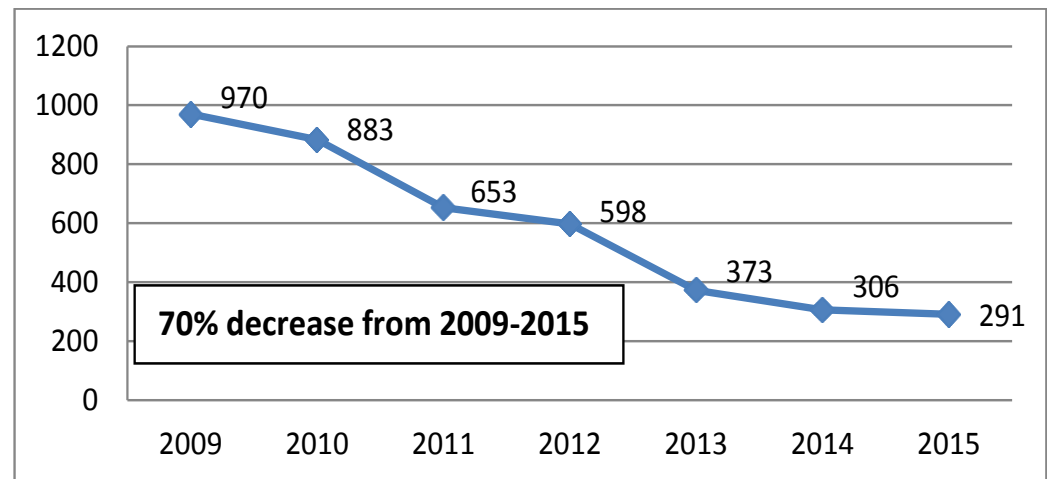
Project Background

- Third party evaluated the project, 2015
- Awarded the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Project (OJJDP) grant, 2015
- Large number of shootings in Tacoma, many victims and/or shooters were members of the project, 2016.
- City implemented all five phases of the OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model, 2017

Targeted Suppression

- Tacoma Police Department
 - Community Policing
 - Gang SET Missions
 - Enforcement
 - Training

Tacoma Gang Affiliation Incidents by Year (2009-2015)



Comprehensive Gang Model

- Community Mobilization
 - Involvement of local citizens, including former gang members.
- Opportunities Provision:
 - Education, training, and employment programs targeting gang-involved youth
- Social Intervention:
 - Youth- serving agencies, schools, street outreach workers, grassroots groups, faith-based organization.

Comprehensive Gang Model

- Suppression:
 - Formal and informal social control procedures
- Organizational Change Development:
 - Policy and procedures that result in the most effective use to better address gang problem.

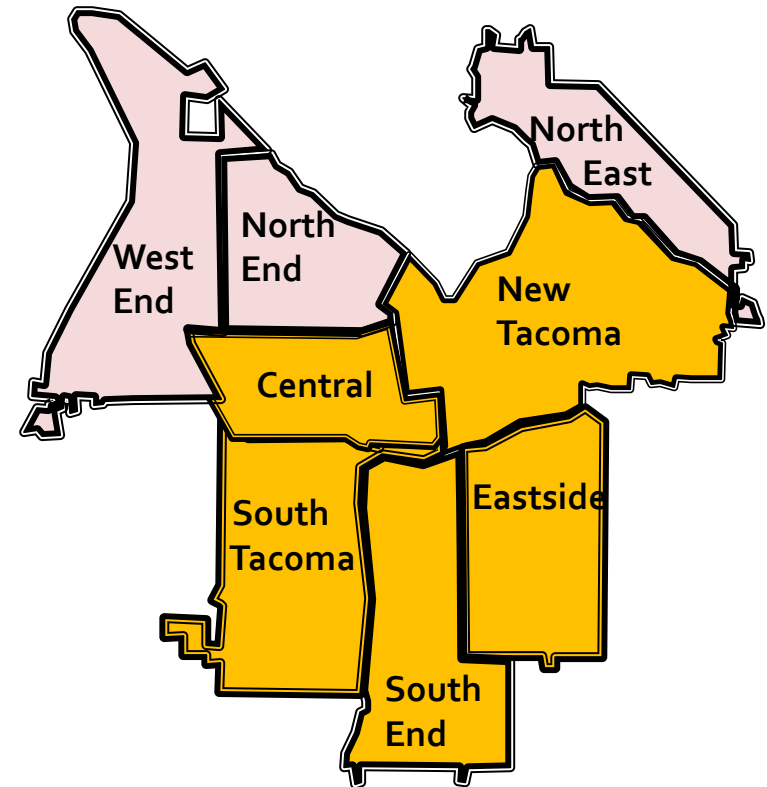
Executive Steering Committee

- Role of the Committee: During multiple stages of the project (assessment, implementation, evaluation, etc.), Steering Committee members may be called upon collectively or individually to clear barriers, create policies and/or protocols for systems work.

Joe Lonergan	City of Tacoma Council	Michael Mirra	Tacoma Housing Authority
Keith Blocker	City of Tacoma Council	Nancy Sutton	Tacoma Pierce County Health Department
Vicky McLaurin	City of Tacoma, Neighborhood & Community Services	Don Ramsdell	Tacoma Police Department
Timothy Owens	Lakewood Marshalls	Miguel Villahermosa	Tacoma School District
Tareena Joubert	Metro Parks District of Tacoma	LaTanya Huey	Tacoma-Pierce County WorkForce Central
TJ Bohl	Pierce County Juvenile Court	Kristine Skipworth	WA State Department of Corrections

Tacoma Gang Reduction Project Assessment Key Findings

1. Five neighborhoods are disproportionately affected by gangs.
2. High levels of gang involvement in weapons offenses and drug offenses.
3. Middle school youth are exposed to elevated levels of risk for gang activity.
4. Gaps in gang related information and data collection have affected Tacoma's ability to understand and respond to gang activity.



Tacoma Gang Reduction Project Strategies & Activities

1. Outreach in all Five Tacoma School District High Schools.
2. Mentorship and community meetings at two Community Centers.
3. Youth Co-Occurring in two High Schools
4. Mental Health clinicians offer community and home based services to ensure all youth are served, regardless of whether or not they have insurance.
5. Incentives to youth who attend group classes, meet treatment goals, and who graduate from the program.

Next Steps: Youth Development

- New assessment to identify the current state for gang involved youth.

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